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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

10 A processor, including a plurality of arithmetic and logic units for processing data for every bit in a word (W) unit, for processing variable length data, preferred for a communication oriented application, excellent in real time operability and a high speed processability, and capable of flexibly coping with changes in function, addition of functions, etc., provided with a processing  
15 mask control unit for dividing the data to be processed and data not to be processed, a carry mask control unit for controlling propagation of carry among the arithmetic and logic units, and a bit switch control unit for switching bits between two sets of data to be processed.